

SPEECH OF HON. WYCLIFF OPARANYA, GOVERNOR OF KAKAMEGA COUNTY, REPUBLIC OF KENYA ON THE OCCASION OF THE NATIONAL FORUM ON HARNESSING THE DATA REVOLUTION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT. LAICO REGENCY, 28TH AUGUST 2015

H.E. Hon. William Ruto, EGH, Deputy President, Republic of Kenya

Prof. Judi Wakhungu, Cabinet Secretary, Environment, Natural Resources and Regional Development

Mr. Sid Chatterjee, Head of UNFPA and Acting Resident Coordinator of the United Nations System

Mr. Maurice MakOloo, Regional Representative for Eastern Africa of the Ford Foundation

Prof. Sanjeve Khagram, Global Facilitator, Global Partnership on Sustainable Development Data

Dr. Tade Aina, Executive Director, Partnership for African Social Research and Governance

Representatives of Government Agencies

Champions of the Global Partnership on Development Data

Members of the Diplomatic Corps,

Representatives of Private Sector and Civil Society

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen

It is an honor to be part of the conversation on harnessing the data revolution for sustainable development, ably championed by H.E. Hon William Ruto, Deputy President of the Republic of Kenya.

The Data Revolution in my understanding is a bold step in ensuring a shift in the way that data is harnessed to create meaningful impact on development decision-making, with a particular emphasis on building a culture of usage.

With devolution taking root in our Country, it will be important to engender this shift, if we are to successfully drive social, economic and structural transformation. For instance, the data revolution will be critical in ensuring that division of revenue is based on evidence, that our agricultural practices are smart and adapt to the ever-changing climatic conditions, that our health sector meets the needs of our populations and that planning is based on accurate data from sources such as civil registration and vital statistics. Ultimately it is my belief that the data revolution will enable us serve women, youth, persons with disabilities and other groups that have often been in the margins of development.

As a former Minister of Planning and Vision2030, I am fully aware, as suggested by the African Data Consensus, of the need for a broad data ecosystem that spans the entire value chain of development, *driven by national priorities* and underpinned by the fundamental principles of Official statistics. The data revolution offers much needed energy in harnessing the innovative power of youth, driven by data, to improve the critical sectors of our economy.

The need to use data for better decision-making, resource use and coherence will perhaps be the defining aspect of our National vision and ultimately, the Sustainable Development Goals Agenda. It is my hope that other County Governments will join me in being a part of the partnership for harnessing the data revolution for sustainable development, and ensure that data drives our devolution process and improves services to our citizens.